

March 18, 2013

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District was held on Monday, March 18, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. at the Water District office, 1016 St. Mary Street, Thibodaux, LA

Present were:	Hugh Caffery, Chairman	Larry Dugas
	Gene Harrell, Vice-Chairman	Jake Giardina
	Gregory Nolan, Secretary/Treasurer	Francis Richard
	Windell Curole	Ron Animashaun
Absent:	None	

Also present were: T. Baker Smith employees
Alma Robichaux, BTNEP; Barry Marionneaux, Attorney; Lori LeBlanc
Nick Porto; Bruno Deleo; Jerry Waguespack; Robert Thibodaux
Archie Chaisson, Jr.; Robert Mire; Bobby Acosta; Euel Zeringue
Ben Malbrough, Executive Director; Jana Langley, Admin. Coordinator

Moved by Commissioner Windell Curole, seconded by Commissioner Jake Giardina and unanimously approved to move agenda Item #4 - Executive Session to the end of the agenda after Item #15 - Public Comments.

Moved by Commissioner Larry Dugas, seconded by Commissioner Jake Giardina to dispense with the reading of the minutes, and approve the minutes of February 18, 2013. Motion carried unanimously.

Ben Malbrough, Executive Director, advised that the District received the Statements of Qualifications from the interested engineering firms for the Phase II dredge project. He stated that he did an evaluation of the three respondents, GEC in Baton Rouge, Moffatt Nichol in Baton Rouge, and T. Baker Smith in Thibodaux. There was a criteria laid out in the RSIQ package. Overall, all of the respondents were very capable and technically able to perform the project. They all brought a little different niche to the table.

Mr. Malbrough stated that his recommendation is to select T. Baker Smith based on the fact that they have been involved with the project for an extended period of time, and are extremely up to date with the issues and concerns with the Phase I project. Overall, that was the deciding factor.

Chairman Hugh Caffery stated that a lot of analytical work has been done, and these other two firms have a great analytical reputation. A more local firm with the capacity to be here on the bayou, and all their features being local was a factor that played into the recommendation.

Chairman Caffery opened the recommendation of the engineering up for comments. Mr. Robert Thibodaux commented that this was a team effort from day one. CH2MHill did a lot of good, positive work but there were also a lot of mistakes made. Mr. Thibodaux stated that you have to get it right. He wished T. Baker Smith the best of luck with the project.

Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Commissioner Windell Curole and unanimously approved to adopt the Resolution to accept the recommendation of Executive Director Ben

Malbrough to select T. Baker Smith to be the engineering firm for the Phase II Mississippi River Reintroduction into Bayou Lafourche Project. Also, to authorize Ben Malbrough and attorney Barry Marionneaux to negotiate the Engineering contract relative to the Phase II project with T. Baker Smith, and once finalized, will be presented to the Board of Commissioners for review and approval prior to execution of same with T. Baker Smith. RESOLUTION ATTACHED

Chairman Caffery asked that the dignitaries from T. Baker Smith step up and tell the Board how they are going to make this project work. Mr. Kenny Smith, President of T. Baker Smith, thanked the Board, and stated that they fully realize the size and magnitude of this project. The other firms are good firms, and he knows them well. The TBS team and subs are here today. Mr. Smith stated that we all drink the same water, and we will do everything we can in our power to make sure to help this Board to make sure it gets done right. He thanked the Board for the trust in them.

Mr. Clifford Smith stated that the water in Bayou Lafourche is important to us. They are very flattered and have a good team put together. They want it to be successful because this is our community. He thanked the Board for their confidence in them.

Moved by Commissioner Francis Richard, seconded by Commissioner Larry Dugas to approve the accounts payable for February. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Ron Animashaun, seconded by Commissioner Greg Nolan to approve the finance report. Motion carried unanimously.

Ben Malbrough, Executive Director, reported on the following:

- 1) Advised the Board that pre-construction meetings were held on February 27 and March 12 regarding cleaning the debris and sedimentation in the culverts at the railroad crossing in Donaldsonville. The deadline for bid submittal is March 22. The contract administration will be held at their corporate office in Omaha. The turnaround time is anticipated being two to three weeks before they award a contract.
- 2) The sediment buildup in the sediment trap will be surveyed including the area adjacent to the railroad right-of-way. Met with Randy Trosclair with Lafourche Basin Levee District to use their equipment, fuel, labor cost, and assume all liability for them to clean out the sediment trap. Lafourche Basin requires a letter from our Board to their Board so they can vote on it. A draft agreement has been sent to our attorney, Barry Marionneaux, for review.

Moved by Commissioner Windell Curole, seconded by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell and unanimously approved to send a letter to Randy Trosclair, Lafourche Basin Levee District, requesting to use their equipment, fuel, and labor to clean out the sediment trap in Donaldsonville.

- 3) Met with Lafourche Parish about moving the Company Canal structure further north just below the water plant. The parish has agreed to take over all operation and maintenance of the new structure, as well as the existing structure that will be left behind. They will pay the cost of the USGS monitoring gauges also. We are making sure that we are able to donate the structure to the parish since this was a NOAA grant to the District. Mr. Archie Chaisson III stated that the parish is in the process of drafting a cooperative endeavor agreement.
- 4) Met with CPRA, Mr. Marionneaux, and Hugh Caffery to discuss the repair options of the access point from the Phase I project. We will get \$8,900 from CPRA, which was the

engineers repair estimate. We could either give it to Mr. Guillot for him to repair the access point, we can repair it, or we purchase the property.

- 5) The Pump Rehab Project was bid out, and the bid opening was February 28. Wharton-Smith was the lowest bidder at \$2.86 million, which was about \$500k over budget. CDM is looking for sources for the additional \$500k.
- 6) Draft letter e-mailed to Board regarding the State Fiscal Year 2014 Annual Plan comments. The letter is thanking CPRA for including the Pump Rehab Project, and the Phase II Dredge Project in the annual plan.

Moved by Commissioner Francis Richard, seconded by Commissioner Jake Giardina and unanimously approved to send a letter to CPRA thanking them for the commitment the State has made so far, and looking forward to working together toward the successful implementation of the Phase II project. Mr. Malbrough will send the letter as soon as the Board has reviewed and approves it.

- 7) Last month Mr. Giardina asked that we get a repair time for Pump #4 motor if we get in a bind and have to repair it right away. The repair time is 2-3 weeks, or 7-10 days if expedited. The plan is to store the damaged motor in the shop to keep in case of emergency.
- 8) The clutch for Pump #1 wasn't engaging, and we sent it to Conhagen for evaluation. The estimate to replace the clutch is over \$10k. We will get multiple quotes before replacing.
- 9) The Board approved last month \$2,500 to sponsor a dinner on Saturday, April 6 at NSU for "Paddle Bayou Lafourche." We do not have to go through the on-site catering so there might be some cheaper alternatives. They are expecting about 100 or so people.

Chairman Caffery stated that this is for advertising our cause. Mr. Malbrough advised that he will put together a power point presentation for the dinner.

- 10) The job openings for the pump station and bayou positions will close on March 25. Civil Service will submit a list of qualified applicants.
- 11) The time of travel dye study will take place tomorrow. It will start in Donaldsonville and the first leg will go down to just south of the Assumption Waterworks plant. Local officials have been notified of the dye study in the bayou. Press releases were sent to The Chief, The Assumption Pioneer, and the Daily Comet newspapers. Mr. Malbrough stated that the guys at DEQ will submit to us all of the data files of the study. He will send the information to the design engineers for Phase II so they can use it as needed.

Ms. Alma Robichaux, BTNEP, gave a power point presentation on the "Bayou Lafourche Cleanup." She gave an overview of what was removed from the bayou during the cleanup. They had seventy-six tally sheets that categorized the different items that were collected. There were 20,000 pieces of trash recorded.

Moved by Commissioner Ron Animashaun, seconded by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell and unanimously approved to change pump station employee Damian Anastasio from probationary to permanent status.

Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Commissioner Larry Dugas and unanimously approved to adopt a Resolution thanking Gary Eusea for his seven years of service to the District as equipment operator. Mr. Eusea is retiring March 15, 2013.

Moved by Commissioner Windell Curole, seconded by Commissioner Francis Richard and unanimously approved to return to agenda Item #4 – Executive Session. Chairman Hugh Caffery asked for any public comments before they go into Executive Session.

Mr. Nick Porto asked if the Fresh Water District send notification of the “Paddle Bayou Lafourche” to the Donaldsonville Chief newspaper. Mr. Malbrough stated that he will check with Helen at BTNEP to make sure that she sends a press release to The Donaldsonville Chief newspaper.

Mr. Robert Thibodaux asked where the next dredge project will be because it is the best interest of the people and the State that it should be dredged from where the last dredge project stopped and coming forward.

Chairman Caffery thanked everyone for their attendance. He stated that all the work that is done on this commission can't be done without you and your help in raising the public awareness of this project. Please continue your participation and help us to get the word out.

Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Commissioner Francis Richard and unanimously approved to go into Executive Session at 6:10p.m.

Moved by Commissioner Windell Curole, seconded by Commissioner Jake Giardina and unanimously approved to return to regular session at 8:30 p.m.

Moved by Commissioner Greg Nolan, seconded by Commissioner Ron Animashaun and unanimously approved the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Hugh Caffery, Chairman

Greg J. Nolan, Secretary/Treasurer

